



NEW YEAR GREETINGS

From The Editor and Staff of
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This Year in Washington BY RADFORD MOBLEY AUTOCASTER WASHINGTON BUREAU

The post office department itself is one of its own biggest clients. The department uses about 300 tons of stationery and 160,000,000 envelopes a year, not to mention 5,000,000 sheets of carbon paper and 55,000 quarts of ink.

It may surprise you but it needn't worry you, to find that there is no official "yardstick" in this country; when the storekeeper measures your yard of cloth, however, he does it with a yard stick based on the bureau of standards meter-bar. It is exactly 39.37 inches long and is kept in a vault at the bureau, where manufacturers and officials measure off the 36 inches for their yardsticks from it.

"Farm relief" of a practical sort is going to be provided produce growers on their next crop. As a result of passage of the product licensing act last year, every one of the commission men whom growers have accused for many years of mulcting them, is going to be licensed under federal supervision. For the first time, therefore, government assurance is being given the vegetable and fruit growers that he will get a fair price and a square deal when he ships to a distant market.

Members of the federal farm board would make a good nucleus for anybody's football team. Of the eight men on the board five weigh over 200 pounds and are about six feet tall, while all of the others except former governor McKelvie weigh over 185 pounds. McKelvie weighs over 185 pounds. McLean and hard enough, physically, to ti the gridiron.

When Navy Day was celebrated not long ago, many officers of the Navy here appeared in civilian clothes while every army officer in Washington was out in full dress regalia. It was the first time such a contrast had been offered. Furthermore, Walter Bruce Howe and William Galvin, Navy League members who made most of the arrangements for the celebration of Navy Day, are both officers in the Army reserve corps.

The highest salaries of the 1,244 women postmasters in the federal service is Mrs. Elizabeth D. Barnard postmistress at Tampa, Fla. She receives \$6,000 a year. Next in order are Mrs. Florence S. Van Gorder at Warren, O.; Mrs. Minnie C. True at Pittsburg, Kansas; Miss Mary H. Cowie of Boulder, Colo.; Mrs. Bernice H. Trammel at Breckenridge, Texas.; Mrs. Lila Miller at Palm Beach, Fla.; and Mrs. Mamie E. Barnes at Plant City, Fla.

Thomas Campbell, biggest wheat

grower in the world, followed the farm board's program by cutting out his spring plants and, since his huge acreage was in the drouth area, made money by doing so, according to Chairman Alexander Legge of the farm board. At that, Campbell still had about 9,000 acres planted, he told Legge when he was here recently.

Use of short wave radio frequencies of flash market information from markets to agriculture department and farm board stations has been proved highly effective during two years of experimentation with eight radio stations in California, according to Commission. The federal market news service uses only leased land wires. It is now indicated greater speed can be achieved and farmers better served by installation of short-wave radio sets.

A local statistician recently wasted his time in discovering that the gum used on the back of the postage stamps turned out at the bureau of printing and engraving in a year could have been made into a tapioca pudding that would have given dessert for one meal to the population of greater New York. He reached this conclusion by figuring how much dextrine is used in the postage gum; since it is a tapioca starch, the rest was easy.

Mrs. Mary Babb of Benton county, Ark., widely known in her neighborhood as an artist in weaving coverlets, this year donated a loom to the agriculture department extension worker in the area and agreed to teach a brief school in weaving. Mrs. Babb is anxious that the patterns she has evolved be carried on by the younger women and not lost to the future. As a result of her offer, nine women from Benton county and Washington counties, Ark., were enrolled in the school and are working on their projects.

One of the most notable instances of 4-H club work reaching authorities here this year is the thorough study of the opera "Martha" conducted by about 15,000 Iowa club girls, this year in preparation for the county music-appreciation contests and the Iowa State college's state contest this year. Started in 1922, music-appreciation work has grown until now more than 90 Iowa counties conduct it.

ENTERTAIN FOR CHAPMANS

Mesdames J. A. Blair, Geo. Hammersly and Aurele Meunier entertained, Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aurele Meunier, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Reis Chapman, former residents of this city. Cards and games were enjoyed until a late hour when refreshments were served. The following persons were present, Messrs. and Mesdames Geo. Meisinger, M. B. Merriman, C. J. Shorb, Paul Thompson, Aurele Meunier, Reis Chapman, Geo. Hammersly, Joe Blair, Wm. Ferguson, Floyd Lance, Earl Moore, Cleo Gilchrist, Alva Walker, and Miss Ruth Byerly.

"Rainmakers" Pick up Easy Money During Past Drought

This has been a great year for the "rainmakers."

All over the United States charlatans and fakers have been persuading communities to pay them for making rain. None of them has produced any rain, but a good lot of them have collected. Some got their money first, where they found a particularly gullible community. Others took the chance that it was going to rain sooner or later anyway, and got contracts calling for the payment of money to them if it rained within a given period, which was usually long enough to give the rainmaker a break.

Sooner or later it is bound to rain everywhere, except in the desert of Sahara and a few other arid regions of the earth. But anybody who pays a "rainmaker" to bring on the rain before the forces of nature in their orderly progress are prepared to deliver a shower is just another name added to the sucker list.

No human agency has yet succeeded in causing rain to fall.

No method known to science can cause rain to fall, except at a cost far greater than all the possible financial benefit of the rain when it did come.

There is always a certain amount of water vapor present in the atmosphere, even on the driest day. The professional "rainmakers" are speaking truly when they tell you that, but that is as far as their telling the truth goes. It is true that if that vapor could be condensed a sufficient amount in the air that it would form rain drops and fall to the ground, but all efforts by human agencies to bring that about so far have failed.

Yet the belief in rainmaking is one of the oldest human superstitions. The natives of the East Indies and of some parts of Africa believe that their medicine men can cause rain. One method is to throw selected individuals into certain of their sacred lakes. Another African rainmaking device is for all the people of the village to carry gourds filled with water from a stream to a dry field and spray the water into the air, apparently as a sort of "ground bait" for rain.

Because thunder and lightning usually accompany rain, the natives of some parts of India try to bring on rain by making their horses neigh like thunder. Black horses or horses covered with black cloths in imitation of thunderclouds are supposed to be most effective for this kind of magic. In Estonia the peasants strike a steel against stone to make sparks, a sort of miniature lightning, while beating on metal kettles to simulate thunder. In the East Indies professional rain makers make noises like ducks, or frogs and other amphibious creatures in the hope of luring rain from the sky, while other savage races attempt to make it rain by flogging each other with switches until the

blood runs down their backs like rain; this is supposed to tempt the rain to fall.

You will hear people say that it always rains on the Fourth of July, because of the amount of gunpowder that is exploded, the theory being that the explosions jar the water vapor in the sky, causing it to condense and fall. But the U. S. weather bureau records show that rain is no more prevalent on the Fourth of July than on any other date, anywhere. Similarly, it is a common belief that it always rains after a great battle, because of the shooting off of the cannon and small arms. But it is curious to note that Plutarch, the ancient Roman historian, who died centuries before gunpowder was invented recorded the same belief of rain following battles.

Most modern efforts at rainmaking are based on the idea of exploding something in the air. Serious scientific efforts to determine if it or any other method within human power could produce rain have been undertaken in the past by several governments, including our own.

Nearly forty years ago R. G. Dyrenforth, a scientist of standing, engaged by the department of agriculture to carry on such experiments, spent \$17,000 of government money by sending up balloons filled with dynamite, or with a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen, and exploding them in the upper air. He produced plenty of loud noise but no rain. The late C. W. Post, of Battle Creek Michigan, spent a great deal of money in bombarding the sky, but the only rain that fell was the tail end of a general rainfall which occurred in that entire region.

Another scientific effort at rainmaking was proposed by an English savant, who pointed out that if a sufficiently strong upward current of heated air could be sent aloft, the warm air, on expanding, would cool the water-vapor and precipitate it. This theory, which is undoubtedly sound enough scientifically, was propounded in 1839, and many efforts to demonstrate it by building huge fires in regions that were drought-stricken have since been made, but without bringing a drop of rain. An investigation by the New South Wales, Australia, government into the cost of carrying out this program indicated that it would require the burning of at least nine million tons of coal each day to send up enough hot air to materially affect the rainfall in that region.

R. G. Dyrenforth's conclusions were to the same effect. It is humanly possible to make rain fall, he says, provided there is a rain cloud present, or conditions such as often come close to rain without quite reaching the point of precipitation, but the cost and the labor involved would be so great as to make it more economical to lose all the crops and all the livestock that

would perish on account of the dry weather than to spend the necessary amount of money to bring on the rain.

Out in Medicine Hat, Canada, as lately as 1921, a tank filled with chemicals was exploded some distance above the ground, but the rain which followed was less than fell in nearby regions where there had been no explosions. Commenting on this, the Canadian meteorological authorities pointed out that to cause rain to fall to a depth of one inch over an area of one hundred square miles it would be necessary to condense six million tons of water vapor, requiring the lifting of hundreds of tons of air, and that there is no energy at the command of man to do such things.

Yet every dry season brings forth the "rainmakers" who collect money for their efforts, even in such an enlightened country as we like to believe ours to be. Just the other day a California chamber of commerce paid one of them \$300, and promised him \$1000 per inch of any rain falling during the month up to five inches.

Rainmaking, it seems, is not a problem in meteorology, but rather one of psychology.

SHERIFF JENNINGS MAKES REPORT ON COUNTY JAIL

In a report from the Sheriff's office of this county it was learned that 400 prisoners were housed at that institution. Of this number 123 were under the age of 21. In other words 31 per cent of the county prisoners were juveniles and were classified as follows: 20 years of age 25; 19-19; 18-23; 17-18; 16-20; 15-12; 14-5; 13-1.

Of the entire number the following classification of crimes were given. Petty Larceny, 36; Grand Larceny, 23; Burglary, 25; Automobile, 18; Insane, 7; Prohibition, 112; Delinquents, 35; Vagrancy, 16; Arson, 3; Non-support, 11; Investigation, 45; Game, 5; Assault, 6; Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, 3; Selling goods without license, 2; Defrauding Innkeeper, 1; Forgery, 22; Murder, 1; Dest. of Property, 2; Contempt of Court, 1; Man act, 1; Bank Robbery, 2; Embezzlement, 1; O. G. F. P., 2; Stills, 13; Possession of Mash, 2; Robbery, 2; Rape, 2; Mahem, 1.

HEDGPETH—CAMPBELL

Coming as a surprise to her friends here was the news of the wedding of Miss Ethel Hedgpeth, teacher in the 2nd grade, and James Campbell of Medford. The ceremony was performed in Grants Pass, Friday and the bride and groom took a short wedding trip over the Redwood highway. Mrs. Campbell returned to her duties in the local schools, this week.

RIDDLE EDITOR VISITS

Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Gaines of Riddle, Oregon were guests in this city, Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Shorb and family. Mr. and Mrs. Gaines are now publishing the South Umpqua News at Riddle.

Outlook Good For Mid-Pacific Empire 1931

Standing on the threshold of another year, it would seem appropriate to forecast what 1931 has in store for northern California and southern Oregon. At this time of the year in cities all over the world civic leaders usually prophesy what can be expected during the forthcoming months. Their viewpoint is generally optimistic, sometimes even ultraoptimistic and often times their opinions are based on guess work.

In forecasting what can be expected in northern California and southern Oregon during the next twelve months, it would seem, judging by developments during the past year, that guess work can be reduced to a minimum, yet still maintain an optimistic tone.

Optimistic on January 1st 1930, I am still optimistic regarding 1931, and I believe that we are entering the greatest year of development that this section has ever experienced.

While the Northern California-Southern Oregon Development Association has accomplished many things during the past year, a large amount of the work done has been of a "blue print nature." In other words we have been "putting our house in order" so as to be ready for expected future developments.

The physical survey of Crescent City Harbor and the economic survey of the country contiguous to it will, in my opinion, eventually bring more prosperity to northern California and Southern Oregon than anything else which could have happened. Our association is expecting, as a result of these surveys, that Congress, at this session, will appropriate certain sums of money for the continuance and completion of the Crescent City harbor, which in our opinion will bring about a considerable reduction in freight rates here and also cause a tremendous development to take place along mineral, agricultural, and timber lines. Government officials and others are better acquainted, too, with our resources than ever before and I feel that the economic Conferences which we sponsored have, to a certain extent, been responsible for giving our resources such wide spread publicity.

The counties of northern California and southern Oregon are united in purpose and if we all stand together next year as we have done this year, I am sure that the accomplishments of the Association can be more pronounced during the coming twelve months.

We have enjoyed an active year in our Association work, but space does not permit a resume of our activities. I can only say this, however

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